



Phase I "Submersed Aquatic Vegetation Propagation and Planting Techniques for Restoration in Coastal Louisiana

Status Report

By

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The contract for Submersed Aquatic Vegetation Propagation and Planting Techniques for Restoration in Coastal Louisiana was completed on 17 May, 2006. The project tasks Golden Meadow Plant Material Center (PMC) with collecting wild submersed aquatic vegetation, propagating the vegetation, and developing techniques to restore submersed aquatic habitats that have lost this important component of the ecosystem. Scheduled completion is 2008.

Tasks and Milestones

A Barataria source of *Vallesneria Americana* Michx and *Ruppia maritima* L. were located July 12, 2006, samples of the material were returned to the PMC and initial trials at propagation were begun using potting medium and standard commercial pots.

Vallesneria appears to grow quite well in a shade house. *Ruppia*, however has not grown well because of algae build up on the stems. This problem can probably be circumvented by further testing of different shade levels and growth conditions and possibly using a suitable algicide for these species.

Planting sites in Terrebonne Parish have been located for planting trials.

The project Study Plan was completed on July 14 with in house approval. The Quality Assurance Plan was submitted in draft form for comment from BTNEP on September 10, 2006.

In the third quarter FY 07, two revisions were made to the QAPP and the mutually accepted version was forwarded to the EPA.

Problems Encountered and Remedial Action

There are two problems to be addressed.

1. Hurricane damage has not yet been repaired at our greenhouses. The bid should be let this week (September 10, 2006). Following green house repairs, equipment for propagation will be purchased.
2. The project contract was not signed until May 2006 which can be remedied by setting back the proposed completion date
3. As suggested by BTNEP we will not do plant collections until the EPA has accepted the QAPP

Impact of Problems Encountered

At this time the project is proceeding in an orderly manner with all contract criteria being met. Nursery trials are being conducted out of doors and will continue until greenhouse space is available following repairs. With outplanting sites in Terrebonne watershed identified, we will now locate sites in the Barataria drainage. We also identify brackish water to find outplanting sites for *Ruppia*.

Deliverables:

This status report is the sole deliverable at this time.

Other Discussions of Special Note:

Identifying an algaecide compatible with commercial plant production may be necessary. However, we will look at potential biological control and cultural techniques (e.g. degree of shade that might provide sufficient protection in a commercial operation).

Design of and material needs the growth ponds has been completed. Sources for materials have been located and construction will begin early in the fourth quarter of FY2007